

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01075 162209Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11

FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06

SWF-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 USIE-00 PRS-01 L-03 AGR-20

DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 /125 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3194

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: MARITIME AFFAIRS: ST. LAWRENCE RIVER PILOTS
STRIKE.

REF : BROWN-LEARY TELECON APRIL 16

1. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT JEAN MARCHAND AND SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE MEETING THIS MORNING TO DETERMINE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO BRING THE EIGHT-DAY-OLD ST. LAWRENCE PILOTS STRIKE TO AN END. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT MOMENT AS TO WHAT GOC WILL DO. MONTREAL GAZETTE FOR APRIL 15 DESCRIBES MARCHAND AS HAVING THREATENED YESTERDAY IN OTTAWA TO HAVE STRIKE ENDED BY LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, HE TEMPERED THIS THREAT BY INDICATING HE WOULD MEET SOON WITH PILOTS AND THAT "EVERY EFFORT" WOULD BE MADE TO PERSUADE THEM TO RETURN TO WORK. MOT OFFICIAL WITH WHOM TCO DISCUSSED ISSUE COULD NOT CONFIRM WHETHER MARCHAND WAS QUOTED ACCURATELY, BUT SAID BACKGROUND OF STRIKE IN THE ARTICLE APPEARED GENERALLY CORRECT.

2. STRIKE IN QUEST OF HIGHER SALARIES HAS BEEN CALLED BY MID ST. LAWRENCE PILOTS CORPORATION, A GUILD ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING PILOTS IN AREA BETWEEN QUEBEC CITY AND MONTREAL,
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01075 162209Z

WHICH HAS BEEN JOINED ON SYMPATHY BASIS BY MONTREAL HARBOUR

PILOTS CORPORATION. THE LOWER ST. LAWRENCE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, WHICH REPRESENTS AREA BETWEEN QUEBEC AND GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE, HAS NOT OFFICIALLY JOINED IN, BUT ITS MEMBERS REPORTEDLY WILL NOT CROSS PICKET LINES IN THEIR AREA. THE MONTREAL HARBOUR PILOTS CORPORATION HAS ASKED ALL OTHER PILOTS GROUPS TO JOIN IN AND MOT HAS A REPORT THAT KINGSTON AREA GROUP -- WHICH CONTROLS UPPER END OF ST. LAWRENCE RIVER -- IS CONSIDERING THE REQUEST. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT PILOT ATTITUDES IN THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY.

3. MOT SOURCE ESTIMATES NUMBER OF SHIPS STRANDED MONTREAL-QUEBEC AREA AS BETWEEN 40 AND 45 VERSUS THE 50 TO 100 REPORTED IN GAZETTE. NO INFORMATION AS TO NUMBER STRANDED IN SWAWAY AS A RESULT INABILITY TO ENTER PORT OF MONTREAL. OUR INFORMATION THAT ALASKA STATE VESSEL WAS STRANDED (KRUSE-LEARY TELECON APRIL 12) WAS NEWS TO HIM. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT NUMBER OF VESSELS IN SEAWAY AT PRESENT TIME SHOULD BE SMALL IN VIEW OF RECENT OPENING OF NAVIGATION SEASON AND MORE RECENT SETTLEMENT OF SEAFARERS STRIKE AGAINST MAJOR CANADIAN FLAG CARRIERS (SEE OTTAWA 939).

4. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER AS INFORMATION DEVELOPS.
PORTER

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